

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5785
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
PROCUREMENT OF RAGI AND JOWAR
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA; IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have promised to take a decision on the procurement of ragi and jowar, the staple foodgrains from Karnataka;
- (b) if so, whether this assurance was given by Union Agriculture Minister to Karnataka Agriculture Minister during his visit to New Delhi;
- (c) whether the Union Government have also taken a decision to provide more foodgrains for the 'food for work programme' in Karnataka;
- (d) if so, the total foodgrains released by the Union Government so far; and
- (e) if so, the extent to which this scheme has affected the districts in the Karnataka?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b): The Chief Minister of Karnataka met Union Minister of Agriculture early this month to discuss drought situation in Karnataka. He also mentioned about procurement of coarse cereals in Karnataka. The Food Corporation of India is required to intervene in the market and procure coarse cereals including jowar and ragi in case their market prices fall below the minimum support prices fixed by the government. A quantity of 15413 MT of ragi has been procured during the current kharif marketing season in Karnataka. However, no quantity of jowar has been procured so far.

(c) to (e): A quantity of 57460 tonnes of rice and 42540 tonnes of wheat has been allotted to the Government of Karnataka free of cost for Food for Work Programme on 14.08.2001. Since the quantities have been allotted recently, it is difficult to assess the effect of this scheme in the districts in Karnataka.